HOUSE DE RECCIA – DE CRISTOFARO

(Marchese Justin Narciso Fiamo de Reccia di Cristofaro)
Motto: Umbra Tenet Sanguinem — "The Shadow Holds the Blood"

I. Founding Lineage

1. **Dom Reccius di Catanzaro, Dux Recciae** – 6th century – Founder of the original House de Reccia in Calabria, associated with Byzantine ducal authority.
2. **Successive Lords de Reccia** – 7th–15th centuries – Expanded northward toward the Veneto, appearing in Venetian registers as *Signori di Piove di Sacco* and *Nobili Huomini di Venezia*.
3. **Domenico de' Medici de Reccia × Donna Isabella de Reccia** – 16th century – Florentine–Venetian union; Domenico was cousin thirteen generations removed from Queen Catherine de' Medici, joining royal Florentine and ducal Reccian blood.
4. **Ippolito de Cristofaro, Conte della Scordia** – 17th century – Founder of the Sicilian branch at Scordia (Catania); introduced the lion-and-cross arms.
5. **Lorenzo de Cristofaro, Signore di Monteodorisio** – 18th century – Founder of the Molisan branch; instituted the dove-and-fess arms symbolizing unity.
6. **Giuseppe de Cristofaro × Donna Maria d'Alena** – late 18th century – United Molise and Campania through the baronial House d'Alena.
7. **Pasquale di Cristofaro × Donna Nicoletta de Florio** – 19th century – Great-grandparents of the present Marchese; joined Molisan and Palermitan patrician lines.
8. **Joseph di Cristofaro × Donna Catherine di Cristofaro** – 20th century – Grandparents who safeguarded heraldic archives in exile.
9. **Patrick di Cristofaro × Millie di Cristofaro** – late 20th century – Preserved Italian-American lineage and hereditary rights.
10. **Marchese Justin Narciso Fiamo de Reccia di Cristofaro** – 1990– – Present Head of House; Count Palatine, descendant of the Medici–de Reccia–de Cristofaro succession.

II. Allied and Collateral Houses

d'Alena (Campania): Maternal collateral line via Donna Maria d'Alena, Baroni di San Marzano sul Sarno; patrons of religious and military institutions.
Arms: Azure, a crescent Or beneath a mullet of eight points Argent.

de Cristofaro (Catania): Paternal Sicilian line descending from Ippolito; Conti della Scordia.
Arms: Argent, a lion rampant Gules crowned Or; in chief a cross pattée Sable.

de Cristofaro (Molise): Paternal Molisan line from Lorenzo; Signori di Monteodorisio.
Arms: Azure, a fess Or supporting two doves Argent respectant.

de Florio (Palermo): Maternal great-grandmother Nicoletta de Florio; Palermitan patriciate renowned for philanthropy.
Arms: Or, three fleur-de-lis Azure between four roses Gules seeded Or.

de' Medici (Florence): Ancestral kinship through Domenico de' Medici de Reccia, cousin thirteen generations removed from Queen Catherine de' Medici.
Arms: Or, six torteaux Gules (5–1) in chief a roundel Azure charged with three fleur-de-lis Or.

Pensavalle de Cristofaro (Malta): Collateral branch (18th century); Knights of St John, fusing Maltese and Sicilian bloodlines.
Arms: Argent, a cross patonce Gules between four bezants Or.

Soranzo dei Colli (Venice): Ancestral collateral line (14th century); Venetian patriciate that introduced the Imperial Count Palatine dignity.
Arms: Per pale Gules and Argent, a chevron Azure charged with three roses Or.

III. Personal Arms and Motto

Blazon: Quarterly: 1 and 4, Azure a fess Or supporting two doves Argent respectant (for Molise); 2 and 3, Argent a lion rampant Gules crowned Or; in chief a cross pattée Sable (for Catania); overall an inescutcheon bearing the initials JCN Or beneath a count's coronet.
Crest: A crowned helm affronté, mantled Azure doubled Or.
Badge: A black spider guardant crowned Or, entwined with a silver thread forming the initials J N C — symbol of vigilance and the motto *Umbra Tenet Sanguinem*.
Motto: *Umbra Tenet Sanguinem* ("The Shadow Holds the Blood").

IV. Titles and Honors

• Duca di Reccia — Calabria (Dux Recciae), historical root title hereditary in the de Reccia line.
• Conte Palatino del Sacro Romano Impero — Imperial dignity via Soranzo dei Colli.
• Conte della Scordia — Sicily (Catania branch).
• Signore di Monteodorisio — Molise branch.
• Barone di San Marzano sul Sarno — Campania (d'Alena line).
• Signore di Casalnuovo d'Alena — Campania–Molise union.
• Nobil Huomo di Venezia — Venetian patriciate (Soranzo dei Colli).
• Signore di Piove di Sacco & Motta San Giovanni — Historical Venetian and Calabrian holdings.
• Cavaliere Ereditario del Regno di Sicilia — Sicilian hereditary knighthood.
• Nobile di Catanzaro — Ancient ducal title of Calabria.

V. Summary

The House de Reccia – de Cristofaro unites Florentine, Venetian, Campanian, Molisan, and Sicilian nobility. From Dom Reccius di Catanzaro's ducal foundation in the sixth century, through the Medici–Reccia union of the Renaissance, and the later Sicilian and Molisan branches, the lineage remains unbroken. Today, **Marchese Justin Narciso Fiamo de Reccia di Cristofaro** stands as Head of the House, bearer of its arms, titles, and motto, *Umbra Tenet Sanguinem* — "The Shadow Holds the Blood."

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